[illegible] House Oct. 10th [illegible]

[illegible] letter [illegible] yesterday, which I did [illegible] read [illegible] ended with the wishing day at Whitfield – The next day's plans were for Dr. Gray & Mr. Bentham to return directly after breakfast to [illegible], & Mrs. Bentham & I were to leave the carriage after lunch – so we all gathered round the pleasant breakfast-table, & then as Mr. Clive was going directly [illegible], we took our gentlemen to leave them there – Dr. Gray had been expressing a very strong desire to see a hunt, & Mrs. Clive had promised him that when the regular hunts began in this county she would take him to see one – In reading her letters over after the gentlemen had gone, she found a note among them from Lady [illegible], saying that in [illegible] some appointment with Mrs. Clive, she would meet her the next day, as she was to drive Lord [illegible] to the meet at the [illegible] mile stone. Mrs. Clive instantly said Dr. Gray must see it, & proposed that we should stay until the next day when she would drive us in the Phaeton to see the meet at the 10 mile stone. She was so heartily earnest that we could not but agree, & so it was arranged that a messenger should be despatched after lunch to the gentlemen telling them they must return to dine, & could [illegible] Mr. Clive who was to return at dusk from some county meeting bringing with him two gentlemen one of whom had joined us at breakfast in the morning – Mr. & Miss Meriweather took their leave, Mrs. Clive went to attend to her children, & we had the morning to amuse & occupy ourselves as we pleased – I went to my chamber & [illegible] myself in writing & in reading [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] before two to be ready for lunch – The ladies met [illegible] (cold & hot meat, vegetables, puddings & tart, for it was the children's dinner, & we were not expected to go through the courses, but choose.) Then Mrs. Clive asked whether we would prefer a drive or a walk. We preferred [illegible], & Mrs. Clive said she would go on her pony, & the children begged to accompany us. We went through the edge of the wood bordering the park, keeping at first the gravel-walk. You must know a park is not a lawn all kept close shaven & swept like the lawn round the house – that looks always smooth & neat like a carpet – and if you get up early enough in the morning you will see old women sweeping the grass & gathering the dead leaves from under the trees – that extends only for a certain distance round the house & is generally divided from the park by a sunken fence or a wire on the [illegible] [illegible] a certain extent cleared, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] pleasure [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] – [illegible]

path [illegible] words – it's matter was dreadfully rough, the Clive, elbowed
& with [illegible] sure, nice, little poor-spirited creature [illegible] the Children were
running round through the inns, sitting [illegible] & Rachel Turner, & [illegible] were
some one ran through dressing [illegible] & Susannah Ann turned
from her & [illegible] meadow & the whole little [illegible] was in a stir – [illegible]
& inside – [illegible] set on a [illegible] the road to the wicked [illegible] Sense & Taper-
ould [illegible] at Alverne with energy to leave that most regular [illegible]
[illegible] & [illegible] Mrs Clive, [illegible] & [illegible] Kelly & [illegible]
voice rose into the shrill pipe [illegible] & [illegible] to speak to the people, a little
Clive was running with another child & as [illegible] an old woman was – She
[illegible] & we walked on Alice, & Clive [illegible] "I'm must Down this small hill, not get
quite [illegible] sides & stables – & she turned [illegible] & [illegible] on her brothers arm
[illegible] & [illegible] gate in which Alice had [illegible] & [illegible] to see
[illegible] & [illegible] & [illegible] & [

Tuesday [illegible] about 11 o'clock the gate bell rang & in came Mrs. Clive pre-
ttily driving a pony chair & the two children with her — she said she had
come to take us to see Kentchurch, Col. Scudamore's place — Mrs. Scudamore
is Mrs. Bentham's sister — so lunch was ordered as soon as possible, & before we
were through Dr. & Mrs. Brice, & some ladies staying with them, arrived, to propose
to drive us to Kilpeck — a curious old church — we had to decline it that day,
& after they had gone, Mrs. Bentham & Frances & Mrs. Clive driving, took our
seats in the pony chair — a groom had led their own pony, that one might
ride while we walked in the park, & little Alice was mounted on that — I
wish you could know what a charming little thing a pony chair is! It is a little,
very light & low four wheeled chaise without a top, & with a little seat
behind, which can be shut down if not wanted, that contains four people; & a
pony seems to be a breed [illegible] peculiar to England — they much smaller than a horse
& larger than a Shetland pony, & considerably [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] rides, such as she [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] little Alice,
allowed in the groom came cantering behind, & when almost there, when she got a
chance to speak to her mother, cried out "Mamma, I don't like Thomas as well as Sam;
she leads so with the wrong foot!" "but you must let her, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
make her start again!" — It sounded so funny to hear the little creature dis-
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — The ride [illegible] charming,
such sweet views of wooded hills, & green meadows, & tiny cottages. — But something
about the place where we were going — The Scudamores are an old Welsh family, tracing
their descent even from [illegible] Plantagenet in the time of Henry II. And the old tower,
which is part of the house, was said to have been built in his time. Col. Scudamore
owns a great estate here, including many farms for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible], & Mr. Bentham rents it. Kentchurch is the name of his residence,
& is [illegible] the name to the little hamlet & church at the park gates. They are
generally in the country at this season; but in August last they went to Boulogne, Mrs.
Scudamore being just recovering from a severe illness — the sixth night they were there,
Col. Scudamore walking on the pier after dark, by some mistake or accident fell from
the pier upon the stone steps below, some 20 or 30 feet, breaking the bone of one leg, & [illegible]
the knee pan of the other — It was a wonder he escaped with his life; & happily
the tide was only at [illegible], or he would have been drowned. He is now lying at
Boulogne, though [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] accounts of his continued improvement, & they
hope he may be able to move to London or Paris by the end of November. Miss Scudamore
is the only daughter & child & a great heiress — We were not able to enter [illegible] the great gate
& avenue, for in the absence of the family it is kept locked, so we drove by the
back entrance through pretty fields & park to the stables, which are in an outer court, and
with great arched stone gates, looking like the old strong entrance to the castle in
warlike days, — I could not help imagining [illegible] [illegible] might have been built, so that,
though perhaps it was all my imagination — Dr. Grace & Mrs. Bentham met us as we
rode up, they having left before we did & walked it being about 2½ miles. We all
descended, & Mrs. Clive mounted her pony & we sallied out to explore the park.

[illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] a [illegible] stone [illegible], & a dense [illegible] surrounded – & a wire one is separated [illegible] in the base, a large [illegible] [illegible] mound, stretching a long way up the side, [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible], occasionally fine large trees, & then clumps, & on the summit quite wooded [illegible] & spent a long time walking over a part – It [illegible] very wild in some places, & is beautifully broken into hill & dale – And as we gained some little hill, beautiful views were before us, the hamlet & ~~[illegible]~~ church of Kenilworth below, more distant the spire of the church at [illegible], & the ruins of Kenilworth castle; & some fine high hills, some [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] & then [illegible] in one [illegible] wild outline, (the [illegible] & the [illegible] [illegible], or everything, place, [illegible], & wood, & lane, & [illegible], have a name here,) made a fine [illegible], round the [illegible] was full of deer, & we saw the graceful, pretty creatures running about, & startled them [illegible] in all directions – [illegible] were some fine old trees, a remarkable [illegible] oak, which looked as if it might number 500 or 800 years, & [illegible] with great [illegible], which [illegible] [illegible] could [illegible] reach round with [illegible] – There were also sheep & cattle grazing, as Col. [illegible] takes great interest in farming, and buys extensively cattle which are fattened & then sold again – They say the home farm is well worth seeing, with its great stables & [illegible], yards, etc. And I hoped to have seen it, dear papa, & have edified you with my remarks; but we had only time to [illegible] the house – the front of the house & the [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], within some 50 years, & is a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], fronting a terrace & smooth shaven grass-plat. The east side joins the old house, & is beautifully covered & curtained with ivy & very picturesque – It looks out on one of those lovely gardens cut in the smooth green turf. Each prettily shaped bed filled with some one gay flower, prettily contrasting with its neighbours – A sort of [illegible] picturesque mound was made of old stumps, filled with earth heaped up together, & planted with all sorts of things, for in this nice moist climate things [illegible] easily. One side of a road [illegible] walk, with stone steps & pillars at each end, was lined with fine [illegible] [illegible] in full flower, & the other side was a [illegible] shrubbery with laurestinas, [illegible] & sundry pretty things, [illegible] stand out with us – I begin to think England the climate for gardening, [illegible] [illegible] such lovely shrubs, the laurels, the beautiful green [illegible] holly with its bright red berries, the graceful arbutus, &c. &c. & in every cottage garden are these pretty China roses, still rose pink with flowers [illegible], & have been all summer. The garden at [illegible] church was prettily surrounded with trees & shrubbery, & that side of the house was one of the prettiest views I ever saw – They [illegible] sent down from the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for us, & we drove down through the avenue [illegible] [illegible] following [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] in her stirrup quite [illegible] perfectly. She passed [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the long avenue, which is [illegible] shaded on one side with large trees, & it was indeed wonderful to see the little creature [illegible] – And let me tell you [illegible] she is [illegible] until the end of this month. I was [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], but we had had a very pleasant excursion –

I made it to Newtonham & 2d took our walk to the village, where from their fascinated at Lord Stuff- a sort of Dominie Sampson, something like people, for miles around with dire woe, & containing a title & everything from Motor & Chaise to Cape & Caps- A stable carriage on it the apothecary's, who also sells hardware, & whole combs &c. It is a hostile travelling village & indeed the houses here are very much scattered, not drawn together as our villages are, & it is the most pleasure perhaps in a walk or drive- Wednesday after lunch we at once sallied out for a long walk to the Farms of Tremenheere Castle; we saved ½ a mile by crossing the fields & meadows, but it was 2½ miles there- I think how subtle the greater coolness over this, & warm most unexpectedly & pleasantly, at this season, the whole herds of horned cattle- Up hill & down, sometimes thro' woods, sometimes through dells, with pleasant views & long cottages & surrounded by trees hosting on us, we took our way, & at length crossing a wooded lane & clambering a stile, came suddenly in view of Tremenheere Castle, a stately, grim, castellated looking mansion, with its most striking part a tall chimney, exactly like a pretty old tower, it will festooned & transcended with ivy & looks like a keep for the power & wealth of the old Barons who once lived here, & delight to ramble over them & sketch it! & so we skirted three sides of it, & delighted to make out the old towns & compare it's old inhabitants to- it was a good walk for me, 5 miles, was it not?- But I owe it hardly some of the better I received to say I do not say anything about my health- But I announced that I thought I deserve a little credit to do so much, & since we have had letters, but be pronounced well!

Tuesday Oct. 22nd- Three weeks since we reached Penzance! How time flies! & Sophie D. says we are to be at Italy through this week; for then if they are to cross Mt Cenis we must, & I like this Bentham & very much, & think 3 weeks quite enough infliction- Dr. may think & seems to think that Oct should have a day longer- Thursday morning I spent in writing for the steamer, & was ready & wrote for hours & proper & welcome D. number [illegible] letter to me- Have somebody remember at 13 for me- In the afternoon Dr. & B. & Advent & a cottage to see about- Some sticks to be knit for Dr. Jex- It was very small inside, very small! but very neat- and an old woman in cap & spectacles reading her bible at the fire, & opposite her a little child in a little arm-chair, with her little hands folded & sitting so very, very still, she looked so like a little old woman sat down! On our way back we met Mrs Staplefoot, [illegible] old Pendennis folks, with their wife, an agent of Mrs. Fowles's [illegible] who accosted us of course to impatient to see the fortune before they were opened, that we had been down to the ships to [illegible] ones- The Sergeman had first returned the visit before from one of his sons [illegible] to [illegible] or [illegible] important than "the parking" even in this little [illegible]. The dear Cornish Friday morning I began my letter to you, & while this writing, hearing me sound of carriage, looked out & the window & saw the Dr & Mrs Bentham all ready, & was off into the wood to finish the home letter to Mrs- The parking of the dear & the accident, the rain & an ominous appearance of a red boat through the mist- & the wood [illegible] interviewed with me writing, which was also the more interrupted by occasional runs down to the [illegible], & a little walk up the rail, to [illegible] fish came up, for a better view, & where I was obliged to [illegible] dogs & men & down with & cross a large [illegible] in which this dear had known once up to the [illegible] in a great hurry- then off again, & the wood

was [illegible] & came in, & Andrew with her [illegible] & [illegible] & which Lord Gifford said [illegible] Lady Gifford followed, & Lord & Mrs Holland came in, an old friend of Mr. & Mrs. B.? & [illegible] Gifford came in in a condition not particularly neat & agreeable, being quite bedaubed with blood, & he said he could not shake hands!- His manner was [illegible] & pleasant enough, & I was surprised. It was so gentle coming from such an interior- He is shooter of the Hounds & [illegible] & it seems a strange occupation for a man to devote himself pretty much to hunting! They said the reason he gave for not going into the House of Lords, was, that he should be sure to defend some of his friends whichever way he voted, so he thought it best to keep clear of politics!- They are rather distinguished in circumstances, for she had not much money, & her father who was Master of the Rolls & a "Law Lord" died before he could amass much property- Lord Gifford was [illegible] stung by serpents, some two or three weeks since- It was Rhode Island [illegible] & the effects of their poison- He was hunting, & his horse stumbled on a serpent's nest- He landed from the [illegible], was stung more than once he is, but mounted & rallied another [illegible] when he recovered- But was been under the care of physicians ever since- 3 stings were taken from his head- Perna's our papers & we have extracted it from the English papers- It was quite an adventure with the little, great terrors- Lord G. is said to be one of the best riders in England- He looked with [illegible] when he was on horseback- [illegible] & [illegible] & [illegible] &

Thursday Oct 24th

Yesterday morning came the news of dear [illegible] safe arrival at home, & of his joy at seeing [illegible] & dear little Charlie & Louie again! I was pleased that he was better & that dear, dear Uncle Father, had seen dear Louie once more! It seemed to me that some time I can scarcely wait for next August to be among them all once more! Oh only to find [illegible] the same! Dear me, I wish I could hear that Mrs Evans is coming sometimes, the "health" is coming back to me, & for little trifles I feel as an Englishman. To all the places I can, I bicycle upon [illegible] & [illegible] me. Little Charlie enjoys a little of the exercise, & the carriage does sweep, thinking that we were all standing upon little "stumps" in the short velveteen knickerbockers & "pink" bonnet of the carriage window, & dearest Carrie determinedly cheerful look to the last — [illegible] kind smile & handkerchief with which she & [illegible] their fingers clustered to the sides & waved their last — dear kindest me bye then, & tears that now & then I thank God for it — dear Mrs Evans & Emmie & all! — Father's thank letter [illegible] me [illegible] Mother, Mother's admirable little written boy is one of [illegible] companions, Jessie Kay, & swelled out of all proportion, & it is [illegible] to see dear old Uncle & new dear myself that I do not thank me's kind letters, & dear Louie's too & forgotten & look through your eyes, Charlie; & remember Patrick when I told [illegible] to look them sat in odd corner, & that last Monday morn & [illegible] with [illegible] & feelings — dear dear children with the funeral with [illegible], & with [illegible] heart!

You cannot think more of me than I do of you all. And [illegible] & [illegible] & [illegible] &